

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

The "marketplace of ideas" concept is at the heart of our democracy.

A broad range of media "voices" in the marketplace is necessary to keep the marketplace healthy.

Recent FCC policies allowing vast broadcast consolidation has reduced the marketplace to too few voices. This limited range of ideas threatens our democracy.

Stop allowing consolidation, restore the Fairness Doctrine, and then -- and only then -- take pride in your efforts.